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REQUEST FOR THE CONVENING OF A SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Letter dated 30 January 1974, addressed to the
Secretary-General by the Permanent Representative
of Algeria to the United Nations 1/

I have the honour to transmit the message addressed to you today by His Excellency President Houari Boumediène, President in Office of the Group of Non-Aligned Countries, President of the Revolutionary Council and President of the Council of Ministers of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, in which he requests you to initiate the appropriate procedure for the convening of a special session of the General Assembly to consider the following item:

"Study of the problems of raw materials and development".

(Signed) Abdellatif RAHAL
Permanent Representative
of the People's Democratic Republic
of Algeria to the United Nations

1/ By note verbale of 31 January 1974, the Secretary-General transmitted the letter of the Permanent Representative and its annex to all States Members, in accordance with rule 9 (a) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

ANNEX

Message dated 30 January 1974, addressed to the Secretary-General
by His Excellency Mr. Houari Boumediène

In recent years, the United Nations has attempted to establish the conditions for the democratization of international relations in various fields. The progress made in decolonization has enabled the Organization and the agencies of the United Nations system to concentrate their attention on the problems of development, thanks mainly to the determination of the third world countries to create national and international conditions such that the existing relationships of domination could be replaced by just relationships founded on equality and respect for the sovereignty of States. Trusting in international co-operation, they have, in unambiguous documents, solemnly adopted programmes and put forward solutions likely to promote their development while respecting the interests of all parties concerned. The Algiers Charter of the "77", adopted in October 1967 a/ and the Lima Declaration of November 1971 b/ illustrate this desire for co-operation with a view to instituting a just and lasting international balance. However, the Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, meeting at Algiers in September 1973, were compelled to recognize, inter alia, that, as is stated in their solemn declaration,

See Corr. 1
"The acknowledged failure of the International Development Strategy can be explained both by the lack of political will in developed countries to take urgent action and by the failure to make the growth target actually correspond to the expectations of the developing countries.

"Indeed, the necessary international co-operation has been lacking. The attitudes of the Governments of some developed countries and the behaviour of transnational firms and other monopolies benefiting from the plundering of developing countries have not contributed to the creation of an external economic situation in line with special drawing rights (SDR) targets.

"Other factors are the inflationary rise in the cost of imports, and the pressures on the balance of payments due to transfers deriving from private foreign investments, repayment of the principal and heavy cost of external debt servicing and the aggravating effects of the international monetary crisis." c/

It is in this context that developing countries must ensure the growth of their economies by having recourse in the first instance to the mobilization of their natural resources, until such time as the international community can guarantee the establishment of new, more just and more balanced economic relations.

a/ United Nations Publication, Sales No.: F.68.II.D.14, annex IX.

b/ United Nations Publication, Sales No.: F.73.II.D.4, annex VIII F.

c/ A/9330, page 61.

There can be no doubt that the current international conditions have conferred particular significance upon the joint action of the oil-producing countries, which, in exercise of their sovereignty, are undertaking the mobilization of their domestic resources to place them at the service of development and of the advancement of their populations. There have been certain assessments made of this situation which have underestimated its scope, resulting only in a restrictive interpretation, divorcing the situation from the context of general relations between the third world and the developed countries. At a time when various initiatives are emerging with a view to finding the best way of assessing the current international situation, I have the honour, in my capacity as President in Office of the Group of Non-Aligned Countries, to draw your attention to the changes now in progress which may serve to guide international co-operation in the future. Independently of the resolution adopted by the twenty-eighth United Nations General Assembly on the holding of a special session on development problems, d/ it seems to us that the proposal made by the French Government on 18 January 1974 could be of value if, instead of being restricted to the problem of energy alone, it covered all the questions relating to all types of raw materials. Thus, in order that useful discussions may be held on development and on international economic relations and all their implications with a view to establishing a new system of relations based on equality and the common interests of all States, I have the honour to request you to initiate the appropriate procedure for the convening in the context we have just defined of a special session of the General Assembly. Any other approach would merely make the present situation more complex and postpone the establishment of the equilibrium which has now become imperative and which the international community has been seeking in vain for many years through the efforts of the developing countries.

Houari Boumediène
President in Office of the Group of Non-Aligned Countries
President of the Revolutionary Council
President of the Council of Ministers
of the Democratic People's Republic
of Algeria

d/ Resolution 3172 (XXVIII).